

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/689,178

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

Applicant(s)

KARLOVAC ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to November 17, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 – [WWW.USPTO.GOV](http://www.USPTO.GOV)

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:
3. The closest prior art *Weinberg et al.* (USPN 6,144,962) does not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention. In particular, as pointed out below, the prior art lacks certain features and the combination as specified in the respective claims.
4. With regards to claim 1 *Weinberg et al.* does not disclose “ ... *choosing a first generic description and a second generic description from the plurality of generic descriptions, querying a database of objects for finding potential components or subsystems for the first generic description, receiving a first answer set from the database of objects, where the first answer set is comprised of at least one component or subsystem candidate for the first generic description, querying the database of objects for finding potential components or subsystems for the second generic description, receiving a second answer set from the database of objects, where the second answer set is comprised of at least one component or subsystem candidate for the second*

generic description, and testing one or more combinations of the component or subsystem candidates from the first and second answer sets against one or more predefined system constraints, and further, determining at least one solution set, where each solution set is one of the combinations of the component or subsystem candidates which best complies with the one or more predefined system constraints.”

5. With regards to claim 4 *Weinberg et al.* does not disclose “ ... choosing a first generic description and a second generic description from the plurality of generic descriptions, querying a database of objects for finding potential components or subsystems for the first generic description, receiving a first answer set from the database of objects, where the first answer set is comprised of at least one component or subsystem candidate for the first generic description, assigning a first candidate object from the first answer set to the first generic description, querying the database of object for finding potential components or subsystems for the second generic description, receiving a second answer set from the database of objects, where the second answer set is comprised of at least one component or subsystem candidate for the second generic description, and assigning a second candidate object from the second answer set to the second generic description, and further, testing whether the first and second candidate objects comply with one or more predefined system constraints.”

Correspondence Information

6. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael B. Holmes**, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at **(571) 272-3686** or facsimile

Art Unit: 2121

transmission (571) 273-3686 or email Michael.holmesb@uspto.gov.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor,
Anthony Knight, may be reached at (571) 272-3687.

Michael B. Holmes

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence

Art Unit 2121

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Knight', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Knight

Supervisory Patent Examiner

Group 3600